

'Our Sending: United yet Unique'

Small Group Discussion Guide

October 13, 2019

Series Overview: *The Letter to the Ephesians (with accompanying ESV Journal)*

- *Our Adoption: Cosmic yet Close (chapter one)*
- *Our Salvation: Received yet Relayed (chapter two)*
- *Our Family: Inlaws yet Outlaws (chapter three)*
- ***Our Sending: United yet Unique (chapter four)***
- *Our Love: Personal yet Profound (chapter five)*
- *Our Stance: Submissive yet Strong (chapter six)*

Getting Started:

1. Describe a favorite childhood game and the context of when/where you used to play it. Why does this particular game stand out for you?
2. Just about every kid growing up plays 'Hide and Go Seek' (or 'Kick the Can' or some other alternate form of this game). Have you have any memories of that game in which someone hid so well, that it took the fun out of the game? Share experiences.

Digging Deeper:

3. In this week's message, the point was made that Christians can also be tempted to 'hide,' in order to escape detection. In a culture that is not always sympathetic toward people of faith, it can seem wise to stay still. To blend in. To escape detection. How does this line up with your own experience?
4. Read Ephesians 4:1. Obviously, the apostle Paul has refused to blend in. He has become 'a prisoner for the Lord' on behalf of the Gentiles (see also 3:1). What does Paul seem to have that Christians today don't always seem to have?
5. Go ahead now and read Ephesians 4:1-3. The apostle Paul urges Christians to be outstanding! In what way are Christians to attract attention? Individually? Together?
6. Unity is a huge theme of this section. Read Ephesians 4:3-6. In what ways has God already established unity? In what ways are we urged to maintain this unity?
7. Our mission (or 'sending') for Christ is united through the church (4:3-6) yet it is also unique. Read Ephesians 4:11-16. In what way is the mission of the church *specialized*?

Living it Out:

8. In the book of Ephesians, we see an incredible progression: Unity leads to growth. Growth leads to maturity. Maturity leads to mission. And our mission must be backed up by purity (the call to 'walk worthy of the calling' we have received)! In the American church today, where do you see this progression breaking down? What are the weakest - and strongest - components in your own 'walk'?

9. For what purpose has God built you into His growing 'holy temple' (the Church)? Have you found your 'fit' yet? What has helped you (or hindered you) in reaching clarity on this?

Lifting it up:

10. Certainly pray for individual prayer concerns in your group (people sick, in trouble, or experiencing joy...). But beyond that, ask God to open your eyes to at least one specific individual who is disconnected from the Body of Christ. Pray for clear direction on how you might be 'sent' into the life of that person, so that the grace of Jesus might be on display!